The Lions' Pride

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Planning for Post-College

By Nicole Alvarez
Campus News Editor

Photo By Valerie Kasper

Make sure you have a plan for the future before walking at graduation. Explore Career Planning and other University resources such as LionsLink and SALT. Most of these helpful tools can be found under the "Resources Tab" on the University's website.

One thought that many students all over campus think at some point during their four years of college education is what they are going to do after graduating.

This one thought has the potential to shape a student's future career and lifestyle and has to be given serious consideration. To do this, students have to start with a plan to prepare for life after graduation, a strategy that will help them knock out any loans that need to be paid back, and any post-college processes that must be dealt with depending on what the end goal of the plan is.

Planning for life after college takes time and a considerable amount of effort and research. Career Planning advises Saint Leo University students to start planning as early as possible so that they might be better prepared come graduation. Now there are several paths that a student may want to take upon graduating such as going straight into the workforce, going into a graduate program, or maybe even taking a little time off before looking for graduate programs or a new job.

If students are considering graduate school then it is advised to start preparations in their sophomore year to get an understanding and realistic expectation of what the process for applying will be like. On the Saint Leo website, Career Planning has outlined a basic guide to planning and applying for graduate school. To start off with, it is advised that students take practice tests for the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, and MCAT and start working on a resume.

The GRE and other such tests are standardized tests that a student has to take if they want to get into a graduate program. Students can figure out which of the tests they may have to take in regards to the graduate program for which they are applying, or thinking of applying. A resume is also necessary because there are limited openings available for each program, and so it would be like applying for a job except the sole goal of this job is to learn.

In students' junior years, Career Planning recommends to start actively looking for graduate programs. Career Planning has several resources as well as links to helpful resources like the Graduate Guide and the US News-America's Best Colleges websites. Students should also begin figuring out when they need to take their required standardized tests and sign up for them, when application deadlines are, and start discussing potential graduate programs with faculty members and career counselors.

Senior year is when students really need to pool all of their research and planning and begin taking action. It is advised by Career Planning's guide to take any required tests in September or October, start writing the "statement of purpose," research financial aid possibilities, and request recommendations from faculty members. The "statement of purpose" is a personal statement or essay detailing why students are applying for a specific graduate program that most graduate schools require for their application process.

Around the end of the fall semester of senior year, students need to order their official transcripts from the Registrar's Office, finish and polish their "statement of purpose," and begin mailing their applications as early as possible to meet deadlines. Some schools will have an online application process, some will have students mail physical copies of everything to them, and others may have some combination of online submission and physical mail so be prepared and plan accordingly.

Now in the spring semester of senior year, Career Planning advises students to contact the schools who they have applied to and schedule interviews and visits, and also about any potential financial aid. Once April comes around students should keep a look out for acceptance letters, and maybe rejections, and discuss with a faculty member or career counselor the possible options, if there are several acceptance letters, that students may have.

However, for the students who do not like the idea of attending graduate school, and having to go through two more years of college, there is always going straight into the job market and paying back those loans sooner.

Searching for a job can start at any time, from a student's freshmen year to a student's senior year. The more time students give themselves the more jobs they can find. Career Planning has a Four Year Action Plan that outlines what students should start doing from the first year they start college all the way up to senior year that can be found on the Saint Leo website under the "Resources" tab.

Career Planning has helpful tips and links, such as LionsLink, to help this process along as well for students to check out. LionsLink is a website geared specifically towards Saint Leo students and employers who are looking to hire Saint Leo students. Now to get started on obtaining a job after graduation students have to do some researching and planning, just like the students on the graduate school path.

Students looking for jobs have to think creatively for what their new bachelor's degrees can be applied to, or jobs that can utilize those particular skills. Career Planning can help with the job search if students are still unsure of what specific career they would like. However, if students have a basic understanding of what they want to do then they should go ahead and take a look around for jobs. Students should utilize online job searches like LinkedIn to get an understanding of what is available for their future careers. Career Planning even has an Excel spreadsheet to help organize and manage job targets.

Another tip from Career Planning is to focus on job positions that have been publicly posted. This means that those positions are current and the companies are looking to hire. For students who do find jobs they want to apply for it is recommended by Career Planning to research the employers to find out as much as one can about them.

A good resume and cover letter can make or break an application process aside from the interview. Employers are going to be looking for applicants who stand out or who would represent their companies well. Joining clubs and organizations and taking leadership roles all look good on resumes and will make students a much better candidate than the other applicants.

When it comes time for the interview process, students should know what will be expected of them and how to get ready for their interviews. Students should always make a good first impression on their potential employer. This means students cannot show up late or wear something casual, as if they were going to the mall or a friend's house. Investing in a nice suit or dress is always a good idea, but try not to wear any fragrances as students will never know if the person they are meeting is allergic or not. Interviewees should either be on

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Campus News

The Lions' Pride Releases New Website

By Erin Gaylord
Online Editor

The Lions' Pride Newspaper is proud to announce the release of our new WordPress website. The new website has a cleaner and more updated look while still utilizing our University colors. This website is now open to the public, and can be accessed by using the URL https://prideonlinedotnet.wordpress.com/.

All new articles and information will be uploaded onto the new website. We are currently in the process of transferring over the archives from the previous website, which will take some time. Archives can easily be located by month and year on the right sidebar. There are also several search bars to help locate a certain author, topic, or article.

This new site allows for more customization and creativity. The WordPress website also allows multimedia, so we will have the capability to upload videos as well as slideshows. The home page includes a slideshow of all recently posted articles. Recent posts can also be easily located in the right sidebar to find the articles from latest issue. Throughout each week, there will be new articles posted. These articles will be briefly mentioned in each print issue to the right of this article; however, the full article can be viewed online before the issue is released.

The website also has social media links at the bottom of each article that offer an easier process for sharing articles on Twitter and Facebook. Each article can also be "liked" or commented on to show appreciation and/or state valuable opinions.

The information of each editor, our faculty advisor, and our lead assistant are posted under the "About" tab.

Photo By Erin Gaylord

The new website for *The Lions' Pride* newspaper will be updated throughout the week, so check in regularly for articles you cannot read in print.

Check us out online at www.pride-online.net

Victor Frankenstein Review

Photo From Twitter @Frankenstein

The latest adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic novel offers a closer look into the life of Igor, played by Daniel Radcliffe. It also explores Victor's madness and raises questions about scientific ethics.

The Force Awakens Review

Picture From Twitter @starwars

The seventh episode in one of the most iconic movie franchises of all time does not disappoint. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" pays homage to the original trilogy, but also gives fans plenty of new twists, stunning graphics, and everyone's favorite Wookie.

Essay Writing Services

Photo From Twitter @HireGhostWriter

When school becomes too stressful with assignments piling up, some students look for help from outside sources. These students pay for ghostwriters to complete their assignments for them. But is it worth it to hire one of these ghostwriters?

Planning for Post-College cont.

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time or arrive early. It is also helpful to turn off cell phones and other noisy devices before the interview. The last thing a student should want is their ringtone going off in the middle of their interview and causing a distraction.

Students should also be respectful no matter who their interviewer is, whether their interviewer is just a step above entry-level or the CEO. Also, students should use their communication skills wisely. Enunciate well and speak clearly when answering questions, make eye contact, and sit up straight. These help show the interviewer that students have some type of communication and social skills, and projects confidence to the interviewer. Career Planning has several helpful resources that provide extra information on what to do for the interview process.

Networking is also a useful tool to searching for jobs and applying for them. The more people students know, the better their chances are for finding and landing a job right for them. Career Planning hosts several networking sessions throughout the school year, so keep an eye out for them.

Whether students choose to apply for a graduate program of their choice or enter into the job market once graduation comes is entirely up to them. Career Planning will have resources available for students to successfully navigate either option.

NEWSROOM
(352) 588-8316
Student Activities Building, Office 106
33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

Letters To The Editor

- 500 word maxium
- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year
- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
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Campus News

Service Awards

5 years

- Concepcion Acosta
- Charlie Ansley
- Gregory Bush
- Patricia Clower
- Julius Collins
- John Fitzpatrick
- Lesley Graham
- Jerry Grocholski
- Kathleen Hauss
- Demitrius Hawkins
- Tamra Hunt
- Sean Jett
- Heather Johnson
- Krista Jones
- Mark Jones
- Susan Kinsella
- Colette Labruzzo
- Sherrie Lewis
- Candis Lott
- Leo McCarthy
- Lorrie McGovern
- Linda Mitts
- Sarah Olsen
- Jesse Prater
- Amanda Ross
- Janice Rothberg
- Mark Russum
- Erica Sachs
- Kelly Schuttig
- Diane Scotland-Coogan
- Kelsey Tait
- Robin Thompson
- M Marcela Van Olphen
- Moneque Walker-Pickett
- Jeffrey Walsh
- Scott Watkins
- Marcia Watson
- James Whitworth

10 years

- Molly-Dodd Adams
- Alison Brown
- Mary Bullock
- Nancy Cerezo
- Michael Dadez
- Cheryl Doyle
- Patricia Elder
- Kathleen Frahm
- Janet Franks
- Dina Giuffre
- Hortencia Gomez
- Reggie Hill
- Christine Hofer
- Doris McRae
- Dia Melton
- Leo Ondrovic
- Denise Skarbek
- Laura Solberg
- Stephanie Stinski
- Jimmy Surin
- Jennifer Timms
- Courtney Wiest

15 years

- Douglas Astolfi
- Francis Crociata
- Carmel Dickens
- Valerie Kasper
- David Ososkie
- Paul Sevigny
- David Skaer
- Doris Van Kampen

20 years

- Christopher Cronin
- Anthony Esposito
- Joe Little
- Shelia Schofield

35 years

- Hudson Reynolds

40 years

- John McTague

50 years

- Linda Blommel

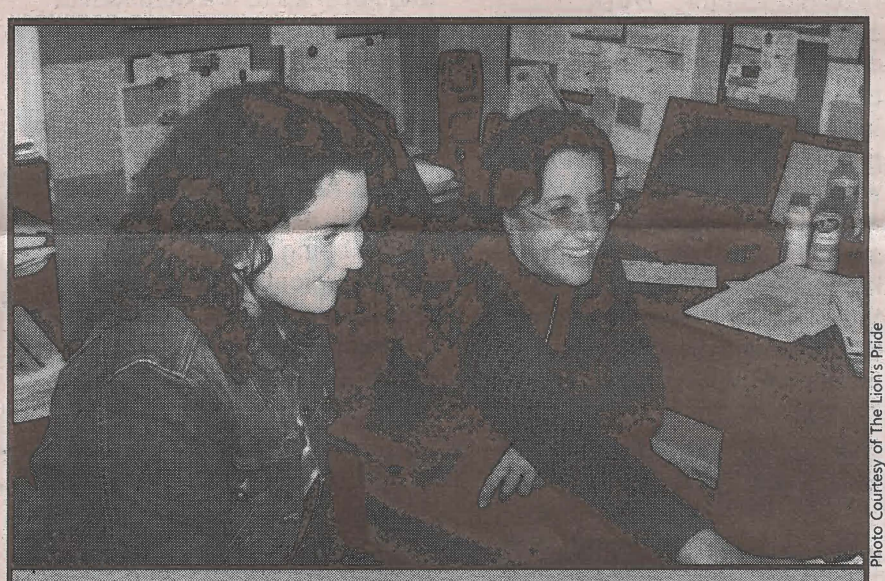
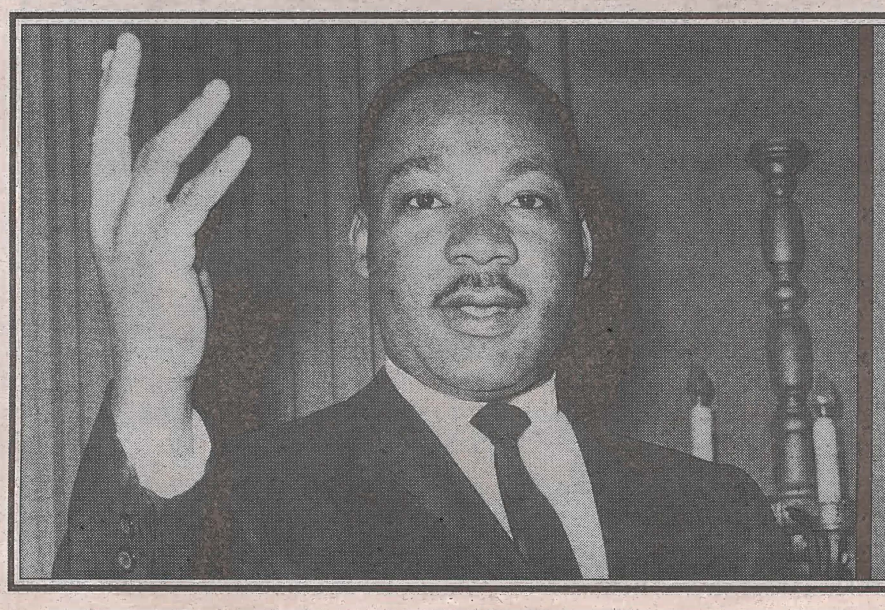


Photo Courtesy of The Lion's Pride

Valerie Kasper is the faculty advisor of The Lion's Pride Newspaper and has been running the newspaper for 15 years.

On Jan. 8, Saint Leo University presented service awards to several members of the University faculty. These awards were based on how long each individual had been with the University. The awards were given to faculty members who had been with the University for five, ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty, forty and fifty years. Valerie Kasper, who got a service award for fifteen years of dedicated service to the University, is the faculty advisor for *The Lions' Pride* Newspaper, and the staff of the newspaper could not be more proud of her.



Martin Luther King Jr.

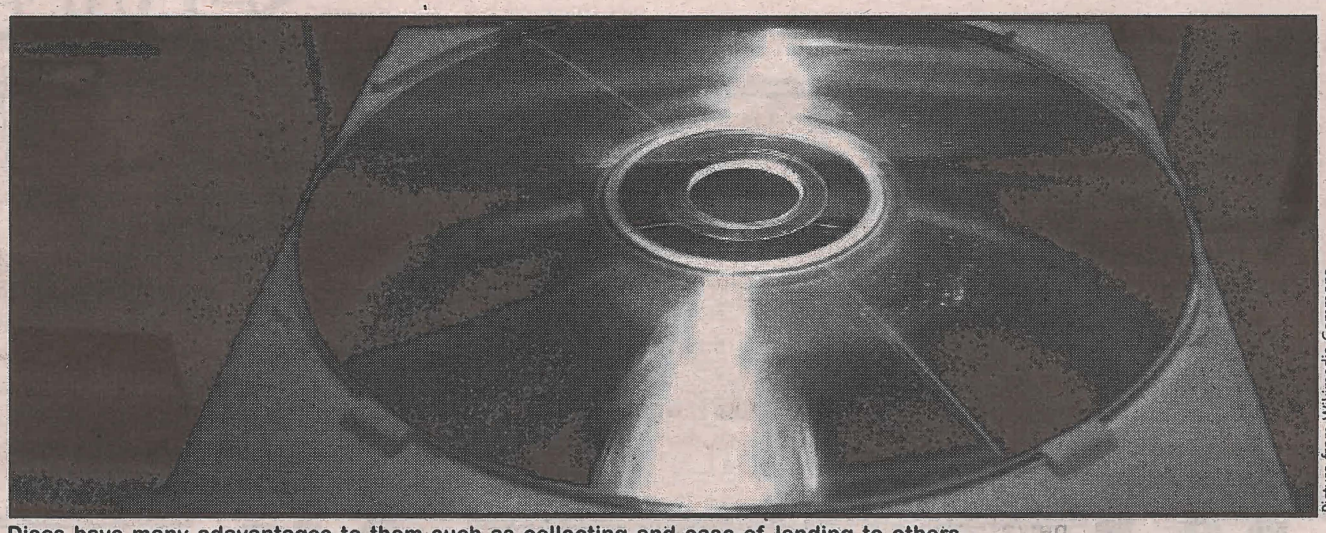
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Science

Physical and Digital Dilemma

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer



Picture from Wikimedia Commons

Discs have many adavantages to them such as collecting and ease of lending to others.

With the digital age being present, multiple genres of media such as books, movies, music, and games are becoming digitalized. However, while downloading the latest movie release seems convenient, some people might like getting a physical disc more. There is no getting around that both media types have pros and cons to them. With the pros and cons of both, a lot more choices have opened up to the buyers of all kinds of media.

For physical media, the feeling of owning a solid copy is increased as the buyer can hold the media of choice in their own hands. There is also the idea of collecting that many buyers of physical media have dedicated their time too such as vinyl record collectors, DVD collectors, book series collectors, etc. Another good thing about physical copies is the lower chance of losing the physical copy. Some issues with physical media is that they are more susceptible to scratches, cracks, and other kinds of wear and tear. Also, there is a lack of convenience in the extension in which the media can be used such as DVD's not being compatible to phones, unlike downloadable movies.

Digital media has the idea of convenience at its side, making just the push of a button bring up anything from a book to an old movie to the buyer. There is also the convenience of folders and libraries at the disposal of the buyer, making it easy for them to collect different kinds of media, organize it, and have less physical space taken up in their homes by their tastes in media. As for damages, there normally are none due to the media being held on a technological device of some kind. While convenient, there are some drawbacks to buying digital copies as well, such as viruses that can cause deletion of some files which can cost more money if they aren't backed up. Another issue is the lack of authenticity and feel of owning the product.

With the expansion of technological finds bringing new convenient advancements into digital media, a lot more people have joined its digital usage. However, recently some old forms of physical media have come back due to popularity. For example, vinyl records have become popular to own once again and are being sold in stores such as Barnes and Nobles, Books a Million, and Hot Topic. While movies have been placed online on sites such as Netflix and Amazon, a multitude of individuals still have decided to buy a physical copy from a local store rather than a digital copy.

When polled, students on Saint Leo campus have also shown that they too choose buying a physical copy of media rather than a digital copy. While being raised in the 1990's or earlier might be the cause of more individuals on campus being more influenced towards this choice, it only shows that society has hit a stalemate between digital media and physical media. While one is convenient, the other is nostalgic and nostalgia can hit home more than convenience can for some.

Is Mars being Affected by Climate Change?

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

With how much solar flare affect the Earth, scientists have started looking at other planets that might also be affected, such as Mars. Through their studies, scientists have determined that solar flares have greatly affected Mars and solar winds are causing a lot of damage to the planet as well.

These two discoveries were found by the latest mission to Mars by NASA, called MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution Mission). The reason behind the mission was to investigate the atmosphere around Mars and find out if there were any clues to its past climate and habitability. After a year of spinning around the Red Planet, the MAVEN spacecraft finally picked up some clues as to what might have caused Mars to lose its water.

Researchers found that a steady stream of particles and plasma from the sun were directly linked to a loss of about 100 grams of Mars' atmosphere per second. There has been another space mission that has brought hints of this back called the European Space Agency's Mars Express mission.

On the subject of solar flares, MAVEN showed evidence that solar flares could take out relatively large chunks of Mars' atmosphere if they are large enough. When a past solar flare in March occurred, MAVEN showed that the number of Mars' ions that stream from the planet's surface, jumped by a factor of ten. Scientist Bruce Jakosky, from the University of Colorado Boulder, noted that flares like these most likely are more common and intense than ones in the past, when the sun was younger, sloughing off much of Mars' atmosphere.

Another clue found of the loss of atmosphere, in that same March, was an atmospheric light display that blanketed the Northern Hemisphere of Mars. In these displays MAVEN picked up energetic particles from the inside the displays that were hitting the skies of the Martian planet. Janet Luhmann, a space physicist at the University of California, notes that with the lack of a global magnetic field, unlike Earth, it does not have protection from the abundance of electrons that threaten to strip the planet of its atmosphere.

The MAVEN probe also recorded that there was a surprising amount of variability of ion abundances. This recorded information provides a couple of hints as to how the different atmospheric layers of Mars interact with each other. Previous reported dust particles have been found swirling around the planet giving the assumption that they were probably swept up from interstellar space instead of from the surface or raining down from the two moons Mars has around it.

MAVEN will be starting a new mission soon letting researchers take a look at how the leaking atmosphere responds during the changing of the planet's seasons. However, if the project gets enough funding, the spacecraft will be able to get enough fuel to hang around the Red Planet for an eleven year solar cycle.

Saint Leo University Suffers Loss

On Dec. 27, Sophomore Marcian Bullard passed away, the result of an unfortunate car accident. Bullard was pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer information systems. Bullard was also a member of the Caribbean Student Association.

Funeral and memorial services will be held in honor of Bullard. The funeral service will be held at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Nassau, Bahamas on Jan. 16. A memorial service will be held in the Saint Leo Abbey on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m., and a candlelight service will follow at 8 p.m.

Please keep the Bullard family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Science

A Blemish on the Sun

By Kristen Collins
Contributing Writer

Space has been going through a lot of strange and potentially disastrous activity in the past few months. These strange occurrences come in the form of a gigantic hole in the outer layer surface of the Sun. While it is not usually for the Sun to sprout random outer surface holes every eleven years or so, this recent one is drastically different and out of the ordinary. The newest blemish is definitely going to bring about many changes to Earth, and maybe even bring about some speculations on the future of the Sun.

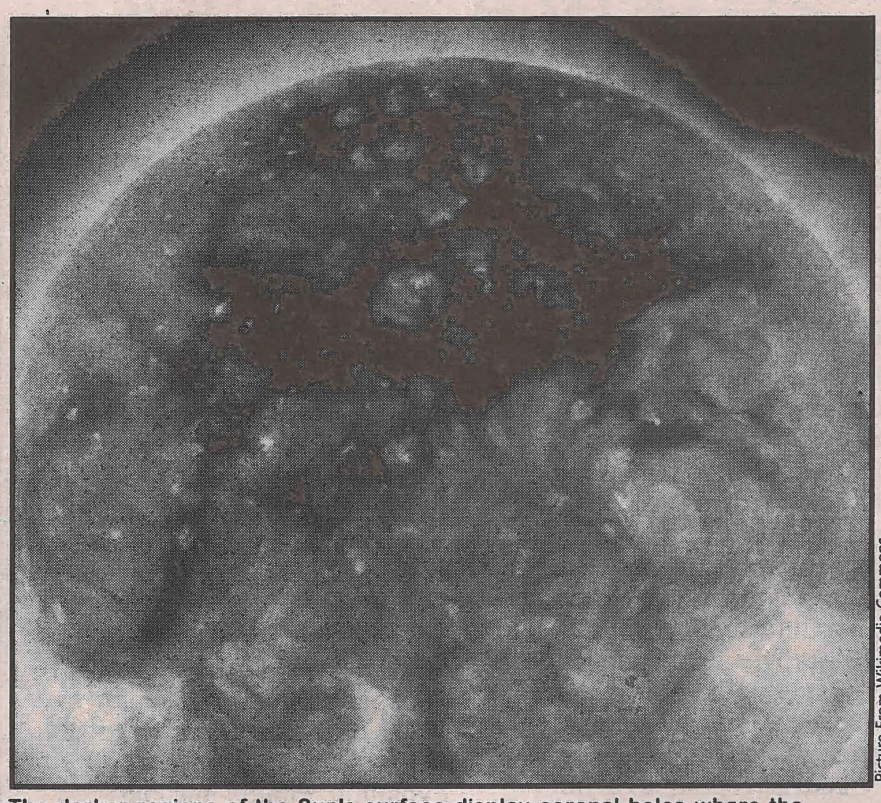
NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory revealed the gigantic hole in the Sun, being approximately the size of 50 Earths. The hole on the outer layer is known as a Coronal hole – a part of the sun that constantly changes and reshapes. It is a darker and colder region of the sun, with lower-density plasma, lower energy, and lower gas levels. These holes have a weakened magnetic field around them, allowing more charger particles to be released. The particles, in turn, create a plethora of dangerous space effects. Some of the effects are geomagnetic storms, solar winds, and solar flares.

One of the most recent effects the coronal hole in the Sun had on Earth was the complete shutting down of a Swedish airport. The solar storms disrupted and knocked out all of the air trafficking equipment. Earth's magnetic field seemed to be focused around the southern part of Sweden, since no other neighboring countries had any problems with their radar and control systems. While the storms did not shut down Sweden's airspace for a long time, it still kept flights grounded for more than an hour.

Going more in-depth in the science of this gigantic hole in the Sun, the least dangerous coronal hole side-effects on Earth are the lower-level geomagnetic storms. Geomagnetic storms – when they are not severe – enhance the northern lights. Auroras extend farther south, becoming brighter and more obvious to the naked eye. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Space Weather Prediction Center keep up with these expanding northern lights and severity of the storms.

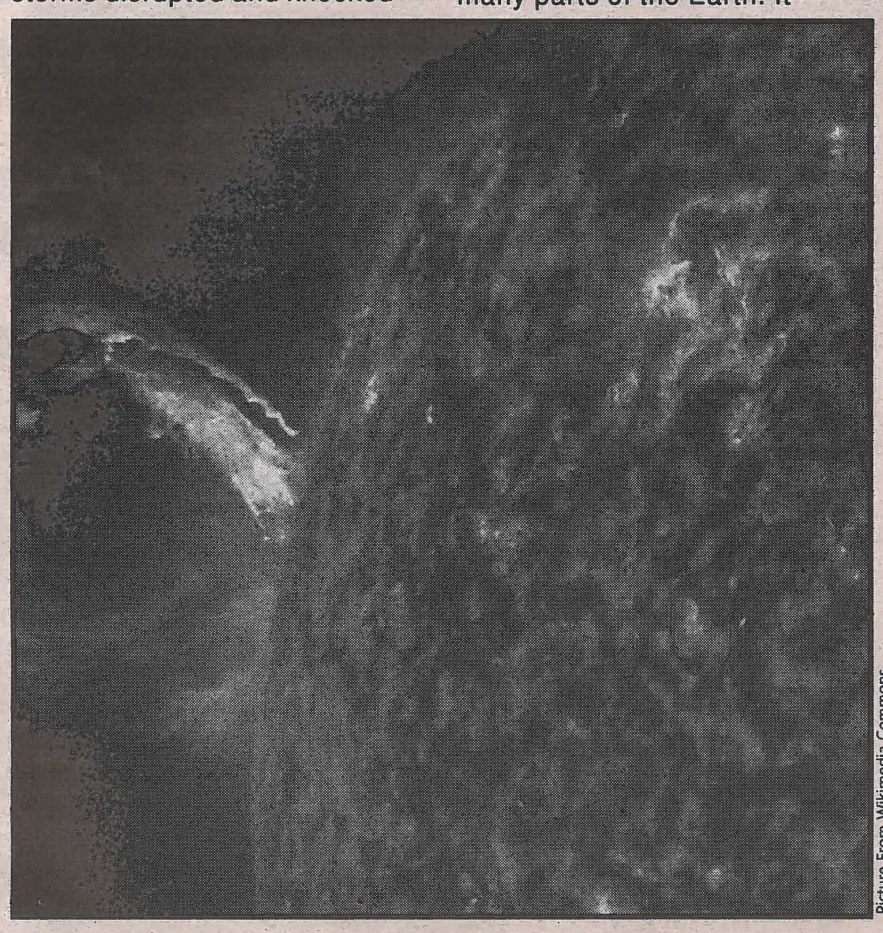
Worldwide disturbances in Earth's magnetic field begin to occur when geomagnetic storms heighten in severity. Damages of Earth-orbiting satellites, loss of electrical power in large regions, and exploding transformers are a few of the issues that can happen with larger particle release from the Sun.

The worst of the effects with the coronal holes come from solar flares. These are associated with coronal mass ejections, releasing electrons, protons, and ions. All of these particles have high levels of energy and radiation, disturbing many parts of the Earth. It



Picture From Wikimedia Commons

The darker regions of the Sun's surface display coronal holes where the magnetic field open, spewing out an assortment of star particles.



Picture From Wikimedia Commons

Captured on May of 2013, this Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) was located on the side of the Sun rather than facing the Earth so none of the disastrous effects were experienced on the blue planet.

have the potential power of shutting down technology for a long amount of time, depending on the intensity of the solar flare and how much of the radiation gets to Earth.

While earlier times in history would not have such a catastrophic outlook on upcoming solar flares, the modern age will definitely be in a state of chaos. A great majority of the world in the modern day is completely depended on electronics, whether it be on a personal level or a corporation level. With technology advancing so fast and it being integrated into everyday life, in the big or small things, a world without the access of technology would indeed be detrimental.

Consequences of not having technology at hand in an age so reliant on it would come in four forms: the personal use, corporations, health, and nuclear reactors. The least damaging would be the loss of personal technology. This would mean no more phones, computers, televisions, and even electricity. No more weekly shows on television or surfing the web on Facebook, YouTube, and Tumblr. On the other end of that, the loss of technology would destroy businesses that solely rely on technology. Backup files would be gone, emails would not work, and everything that holds a corporate business together would fall apart.

In the medical field, technology has become an important part to research and development. In an age where living longer is also in abundance, the loss of technology would put a stop to a lot of health and science progress. Labs for research would have to be shut down, hospital equipment would stop working properly, medicated drugs would not be able to be made anymore, and those with health aids would cease to work.

Technology has advanced enough that alternative, but dangerous, ways of generating power have been created: nuclear reactors. Every one of these facilities go through a long process of keeping the radioactive excess within the facilities, and if these measures are not taken, catastrophic events occur. Technology is the sole barrier between the dangerous radioactive materials and the outside world. The solar flares would completely disrupt all of these failsafe measures, resulting is poisonous materials to be unleashed across Earth.

If the Sun does somehow create larger coronal holes in the future, with the Earth finding its way in the path of intensely powerful solar flares, it may indeed be the end of the age of technology.

Arts & Entertainment

A Superb Expedition

By Jordan Cardenas
Contributing Writer

Whenever the name "Pokemon" is mentioned, people instantly think of cute critters such as Pikachu being given commands in battle. In the popular spin-off series, "Pokemon Mystery Dungeon," that idea is flipped on its head where players now have the freedom not to command Pokemon, but to play as a Pokemon themselves on a vast journey. The fourth installment in this series— "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon," developed by Spike Chunsoft for the Nintendo 3DS—proves to be among the biggest undertakings in the Pokemon Mystery Dungeon series yet.

Like past games in the series, "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" begins by providing players with a personality test for them to decide what Pokemon the player should be. There are 20 different species that a player could become. What is interesting to note is that if players are not interested in the suggestion given based on the personality quiz, they have the option to choose which Pokemon they would rather be, a convenience past games have lacked.

Once a player makes the choice for what Pokemon he/she wants to be, as well as choosing a partner Pokemon, the player wakes up as the Pokemon he/she chose with no memory of his/her past human life. Eventually, the story leads to meeting up with the partner Pokemon. While previous entries of the series lead players quickly into becoming a heroic exploration team, "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" takes a slower pace by having the player adjust to the Pokemon-filled world. From attending Pokemon classes and making friends with classmates as well as fellow Pokemon neighbors; this can make the first quarter of the game feel rather slow and uneventful, but this approach also really helps the player gradually get to know and grow fond of the game's characters.

As the real adventure begins, players familiar with the series may notice similar story tropes in "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon's" narrative. However, what keeps that narrative interesting is how the game manages to give those tropes a fresh spin. While it is a simple, light-hearted story that people of any age can get invested in, "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" is still an emotional ride that will tug at heartstrings, despite some of its repeated elements that manage to be balanced out with its own twists.

What past players certainly may not expect are some of the many changes made to the core mechanics of the game. Overall, "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" plays very similarly to its predecessors: the player explores a number of randomly-generated dungeons, fighting foes along the way and climbing (or descending) to the end of each dungeon, or reaching a certain floor to clear objectives for clients such as finding lost objects or defeating outlaws. Many mechanics of the main Pokemon series are still utilized, such as evolution, the rock-paper-scissors element of Pokemon types, leveling up, and the recent addition of Mega Evolution, though this last element feels sadly under-utilized.

What may throw veteran players off is what feels to be a much harder game at first glance, but this is not the case. "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" focuses deeper on the roguelike elements of the "Mystery Dungeon" franchise as a whole. "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" relies on some luck factors, but also a lot of strategizing. Additions that "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" brings are the inclusion of wands—items which can be used to inflict status ailments or warp enemies away. There is also the new emera system, where players will find random jewels in dungeons that can be equipped to a Pokemon. These can provide temporary skills that help the player in certain situations, such as allowing additional hits or decreasing damage taken. While these luck-based systems may feel frustrating at times, it does make the gameplay more interesting by pushing players to work with what they are given.

There are other smaller mechanics that "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" introduces too, such as pushing allies away in certain directions, button shortcuts and adjustments to the GUI that help give the player additional information. The AI of allies has also been greatly improved, eliminating one of the series' biggest flaws. While many of these additions are small on their own, together they truly help provide a much more enjoyable experience that is out to help players rather than hinder them.

The game remains largely a single-player experience, though it does provide some multiplayer content. If a player happens to be defeated in a dungeon, he/

Upcoming Events

December 19 - February 1 - Artwork From the Permanent Collection on the Holocaust @ The Florida Holocaust Museum

January 16 - 6th Annual BBQ & Blues Festival @ Zephyrhills Municipal Airport

January 16 - 17 - Suncoast Arts Fest @ Wiregrass Mall

January 16 - 18 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Festival @ Plant City MLK Sports Complex

January 17 - Holy Name Monastery Presents Tickled in Pink @ Holy Name Monastey

January 22 - Billy Joel @ Amalie Arena Tickets from $80.00

January 23 - Chili in the Park/ Classic Car Show @ Lake Eva Park in Haines City Florida

January 23 - Let's Hang On! Frankie Valli Tribute @ PHSC-West Campus

January 26 - WWE Smackdown @ Amalie Arena Tickets from $40.00

January 30 - Little Big Town with Chris Stapleton Tickets from $33.00

February 11 - Andrea Bocelli @ Amalie Arena Tickets from $17.00

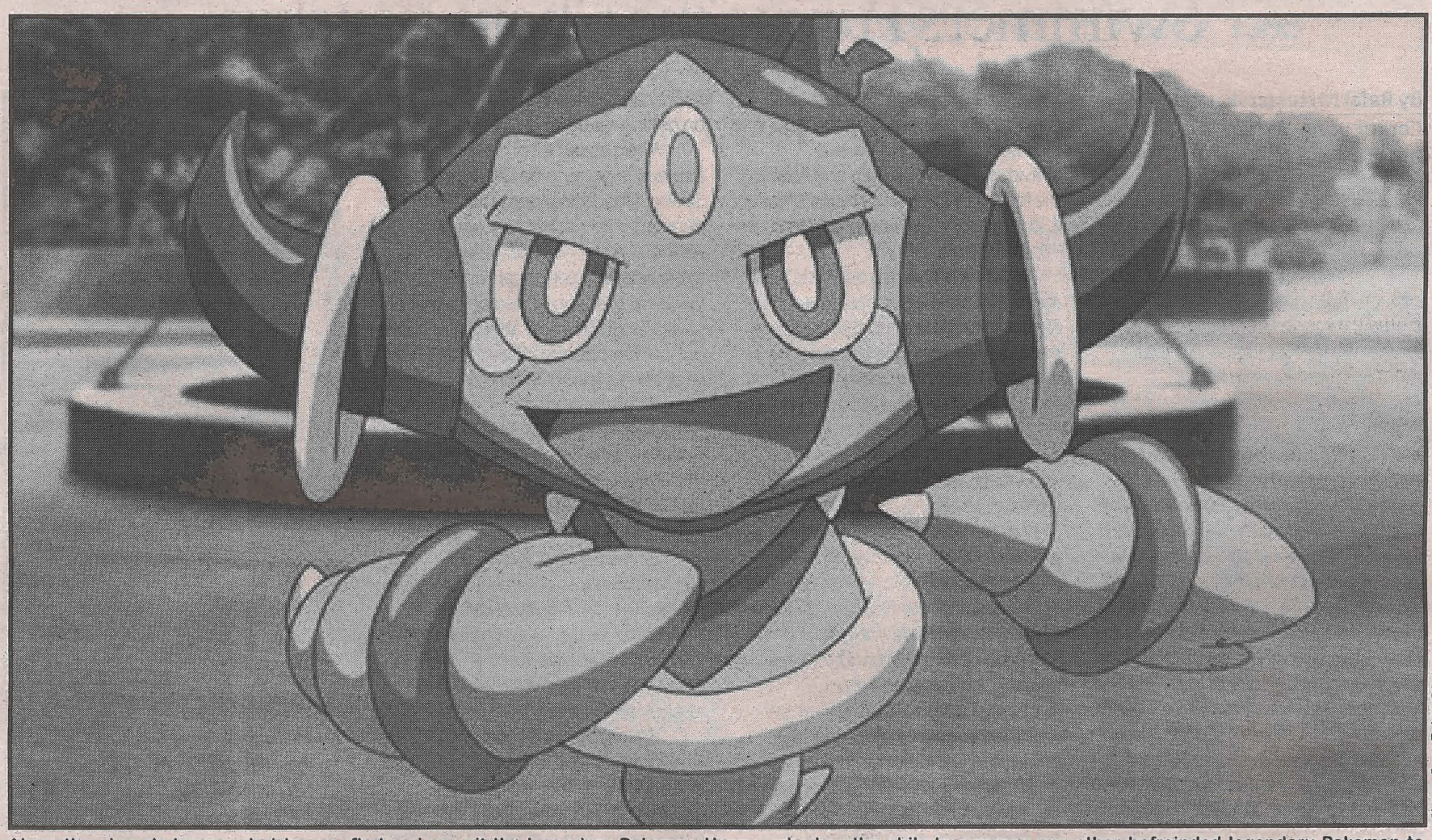
February 20 - Arenacross @ Amalie Area Tickets from $20.00

February 24 - Jeff Dunham @ Amalie Area Tickets from $43.00

February 27 - Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic @ Amalie Arena Tickets from $34.00

April 29 - 98RockFest @ Amalie Arena- Tickets from $29.00

Arts & Entertainment



Picture From Twitter@Pokemon

Along the player's journey, he/she can find and recruit the legendary Pokemon Hoopa, who has the abily to summon any other befreinded legendary Pokemon to the current location.

she has the choice of calling for help from friends, whether through passwords or by local communication. This is not very deep for a multiplayer experience, but has been a staple of the series since the beginning.

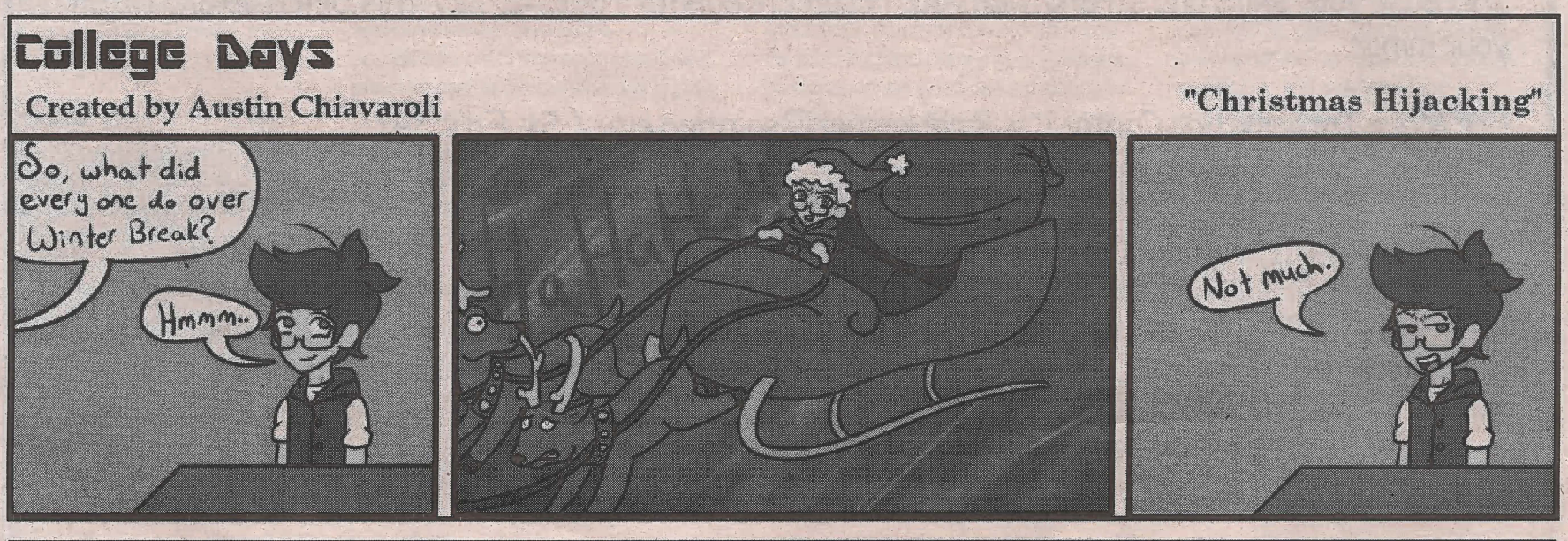
"Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" is the largest Pokemon game yet in scale, with over 700 Pokemon to befriend and over 120 dungeons to explore. Recruiting Pokemon is another major change in "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon," where clients or certain enemy Pokemon will join the player after completing missions rather than through random chance after defeating enemies in dungeons. While this is a more laidback method, there is a certain lack of excitement of meeting interesting Pokemon in dungeons, but having no chance of recruiting them there and being forced to wait for certain missions to appear in order to do so.

Though "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" may be the biggest of its kind yet by technical standards, its story is somewhat short to a disappointing extent. Once the main story is complete, there is not much left to do other than work to recruit every single Pokemon by completing missions. While this does extend the game's playtime exponentially, much of it can feel tedious and monotonous after a while.

Visually, the game is almost identical to its predecessor—"Pokemon Mystery Dungeon: Gates to Infinity." This is not a huge issue, as many of the Pokemon models and the environments around them do look vivid on the Nintendo 3DS screen. Nevertheless, "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" separates itself with its presence of many nice illustrations, as well as cutscenes that are quite dynamic and impressive on Nintendo's most recent handheld device. Though it may not be the most phenomenal of graphical presentations, it is certainly wonderful to look at.

The soundtrack for the game is also well done. While it may not be among the highest caliber and there are a number of songs simply heard a few too many times, it is hard not to be charmed by it. From soothing melodies in smaller dungeons, to touching, mood setting compositions, adrenaline-pumping battle themes, and catchy tunes while exploring towns, there are certainly songs that each player will find him/herself humming along to within a few hours. With that being said, it is generous for the developers of the game to offer a Jukebox mode to allow players to listen to these songs whenever they would like, though songs have to be gradually unlocked.

"Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" may not appeal to every gamer, or even every "Pokemon" fan. It is an entirely different species from the main "Pokemon" series that has become such a worldwide phenomenon, but that does not make it bad by any means. The game itself still offers a fun battle system, a large world to explore and hundreds of Pokemon to get acquainted with. Its story, while having familiar undertones, is still an emotional piece that is bound to move players as they reach the end credits. It is not only a visually nice-looking game, but a sweet pleasure to the ears with its soundtrack. For Pokemon fans looking for a fun experience or even just looking for something different, "Pokemon Super Mystery Dungeon" lives up to its title of "Super," and will not disappoint, which is why it earns the rating of 4.0/5.0.



Sports

Swimmers Pursue the Championship

By Rafal Matuszczak
Contributing Writer

After many remarkable performances last Fall, this Spring the Saint Leo Swimming teams will enter the most important period of their season. For both the Women and Men the upcoming term is crucial as the teams will have a chance to capture multiple championship titles.

Despite the performances of last Fall, the real challenge for both teams begins this Spring. Women, as well as Men, will take part in several championships races in which they will try to pursue victory.

Apparently, the athletes are on a good way to achieve their goals. After the races that the teams participated in during the Fall, at the beginning of last December, the CollegeSwimming.com Division II Team Rankings classified the Men as 6th and the Women as 20th in the nation.

Additionally, several swimmers achieved qualifying standards for the NCAA Division II championships that will take place in Indianapolis starting at the beginning of March. Nevertheless, the Sunshine State Conference Championships that start on the February, 18th will be just as important.

"The Main Goal or focus is the peak at the SSC and NCAA National Championships to elevate our overall Conference presence and improve our placing from last year for both the Men and Women Swimming programs," said the Head Coach of Saint Leo Swimming, Paul Mangen.

The athletes already proven that they know how to peak at the right moment. Last year, the Lions presented their abilities at the SSC and the Nationals, placing several individuals on the podium and finishing the NCAA Division II championships as 13th on the Men's side and 27th on the Women's side.

It might be hard to estimate how the teams will perform this year. Nevertheless, the performances from the Fall might indicate the direction in which the Lions are going.

"It's been a great group to coach, I know I speak for the entire coaching staff when I say it's been very motivating and exciting to be able to work with these Student-Athletes as they've bought into the system I've presented. They've proven that hard work works," said Mangen.

Of course, the Fall did not disclose all the unknowns, and the Spring still gives the Lions an opportunity to qualify for the national championships. According to Mangen, "we have set our sights on female relay(s) as well as some potential individual entries for both Men and Women. Right now we have two women and five males that are in the meet, and I believe we can add 2-3 more on each side."

Last season the Lions sent eight swimmers to the nationals. Even though this season is just half-way finished, having seven athletes with the qualifying standards puts the Lions in a very good position. The early qualification for the national championships gives the team an opportunity to focus on practice. Since the swimmers do not have to worry about being eligible for the nationals, they can now set the meet as their priority and concentrate al their efforts on getting ready for the competition.

When asked if the coaching strategy is going to be different this Spring, Coach Mangen said "What we do won't change, but how we do it may. As the athletes develop, we must adapt to the needs of perpetual improvement. We have more of an idea of which events each Student-Athlete will do at our Conference and NCAA championships so we will be even more [specifically fixated] on this, as that was previously a variable. But the process will stay the same, it works because we are always raising the bar and making adjustments as the program and individuals within the team develop."

Although the teams already included many talented athletes, the roster might be slightly changed in the Spring. However, the changes will result in adding new players to the field rather than removing swimmers that are already on the team

"We will be adding several athletes to our line-up this semester that did not compete in the Fall, so this will aid greatly in depth as well as ability to score points and potentially win races." said Mangen.

Even though the most important part of the season is the championships period, the Lions still have few meets of the regular season ahead of them. The meets will take place at Tampa, Rollins, and Florida Tech Universities, and all of them will be in January.

The members of the team have already made history breaking several school records as well as achieving remarkable results at the NCAA championships. Based on the previous performances and the successful Fall, it is not wrong to think that the upcoming Spring might be exciting for the Lions as well as their fans.

"I am enjoying the process of developing these Student-Athletes, and it has been very gratifying to see the growth of program through the collection of individuals that make up this team," said Mangen.

If the athletes maintain the good attitude and focus on the future performances, the results might be as satisfactory as last year. Nevertheless, both the coaches and the athletes believe they can perform even better.

As the season continues, the Lions' Pride Newspaper will continue coverage about the Lion's swim team.

Upcoming Games For the Week of 1/15/16 - 1/21/16

Women's Basketball
January 16
2 PM

Saint Leo @ Tampa
Bob Martinez
Athletics Center

Men's Basketball
January 16
4 PM

Saint Leo @ Tampa
Bob Martinez
Athletics Center

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